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ALI BABA;

OR, THE

FORTY THIEVES,

DESTROYED BY

MORGIANA,

A SLAVE.

ON WHICH IS FOUNDED

The New Grand Operatical Romance.

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ALI BABA;

OR,

THE FORTY THIEVES.

IN a town of Perſia there lived two brothers, the ſons of a poor man; the one was named Caſſim, and the other Ali Baba. Caſſim, the elder, married a wife with a conſiderable fortune, and lived at his eaſe, in a handſome houſe, with plenty of ſervants; but the wife of Ali Baba was as poor as himſelf; they dwelt in a mean cottage in the ſuburbs of the city, and he maintained his family by cutting wood in a neighbouring foreſt.

One day when Ali Baba was in the foreſt and preparing to load his aſſes with the wood he had cut, he ſaw a troop of horſemen approaching towards him. He had often heard of robbers

who infeſted that foreſt, and, in great fright, he haſtily climbed a large thick tree, which ſtood near the foot of a rock, and hid himſelf among the branches.

The horſemen ſoon galloped up to the rock where they all diſmounted. Ali Baba counted forty of them, and he could not doubt but they were thieves, by their ill-looking countenances. They each took a loaded portmanteau from his horſe, and he who ſeemed to be their captain, turning to the rock, ſaid, *Open Sesame*, and immediately a door opened in the rock, and all the robbers paſſed in, when the door ſhut of itſelf. In a ſhort time the door opened again, and the forty robbers came out, followed by their captain; who ſaid, *Shut Sesame*. The door inſtantly cloſed; and the troop, mounting their horſes, were preſently out of ſight.

Ali Baba remained in the tree a long time, and ſeeing that the robbers did not return, he ventured down: and approaching cloſe to the rock, ſaid, *Open Sesame*. Immediately the door flew open, and Ali Baba beheld a ſpacious cavern, very light, and filled with

all ſorts of proviſions, merchandiſe, rich ſtuffs, and heaps of gold and ſilver coin which theſe robbers had taken from merchants and travellers. Ali Baba then went in ſearch of his aſſes and having brought them to the rock, took as many bags of gold coin as they could carry, and put them on their backs, covering them with ſome looſe faggots of wood; and afterwards (not forgetting to ſay, *Shut Seſame*) he drove the aſſes back to the city; and having unloaded them in the ſtable belonging to his cottage, carried the bags into the houſe, and ſpread the gold coin out upon the floor before his wife.

His wife, delighted with poſſeſſing ſo much money, wanted to count it; but finding it would take up too much time, ſhe was reſolved to meaſure it; and running to the houſe of Ali Baba's brother, ſhe entreated them to lend her a ſmall meaſure.

Caſſim's wife was very proud and envious: "I wonder," ſaid ſhe to herſelf, "what ſort of grain ſuch poor "people can have to meaſure; but I "am determined I will find out what "they are doing." So before ſhe gave

the measure, she artfully robbed the bottom with some suet.

Away ran Ali Baba's wife, measure her money, and having helped her husband to bury it in the yard, she carried back the measure to her brother in-law's house without perceiving that a piece of gold was left sticking to the bottom of it.

"Fine doings, indeed!" cried Cassim's wife to her husband, after examining the measure, "your brother "there, who pretends to be so very "poor, is richer than you are, for he "does not count his money, but measures it."

Cassim hearing these words, and seeing the piece of gold, grew as envious as his wife, and hastening to his brother threatened to inform the Cadi of his wealth, if he did not confess to him how he came by it. Ali Baba without hesitation told him the history of the robbers, and the secret of the cave and offered him half his treasure; but the envious Cassim disdained so poor a sum, resolving to have fifty times more than that out of the robbers' cave.

Accordingly he rose early the next

morning, and set out with ten mules loaded with great chests. He found the rock easily enough by Ali Baba's description; and having said, *Open Sesame*, he gained admission into the cave; where he found more treasure than he even had expected to behold from his brother's account of it. He immediately began to gather bags of gold and pieces of rich brocades, all which he piled close to the door; but when he had got together as much, or even more than his ten mules could possibly carry, and wanted to get out to load them, the thoughts of his wonderful riches had made him entirely forget the word which caused the door to open. In vain he tried *Bans*, *Fane*, *Lane*, *Tetane*, and a thousand others; the door remained as immoveable as the rock itself, notwithstanding Cassim kicked and screamed, till he was ready to drop with fatigue and vexation. Presently he heard the sound of horses feet, which he rightly concluded to be the robbers, and he trembled lest he should now fall a victim to his thirst of riches.

He resolved however to make one effort to escape; and when he heard

Sesame pronounced, and saw the door open, he sprang out; but was instantly put to death by the swords of the robbers.

The thieves now held a council, but not one of them could possibly guess at what means Cassim had got into the cave. They saw the heaps of treasure he had piled ready to take away, but they did not miss what Ali Baba had secured before. At length they agreed to cut Cassim's body into four quarters and hang the pieces within the cave that it might terrify any one from further attempts; and also determined not to return themselves for fear of being watched and discovered.

When Cassim's wife saw night come on, and her husband not returned, she became greatly terrified. She watched at her window till day-break, and then went to tell Ali Baba of her fears. Cassim had not informed him of his design of going to the cave, But Ali Baba, now hearing of his journey thither, did not wait to be desired to go in search of him.

He drove his asses to the forest without delay. He was alarmed to see blood near the rock; and on entering

he cave, he found the body of his unfortunate brother cut to pieces, and hung up within the door. It was too late now to save him; but he took down the quarters, and put them upon one of his asses, covering them with faggots of wood: and weeping for the miserable end of his brother he regained the city.

The door of his brother's house was opened by Morgiana, an intelligent faithful female slave, who Ali Baba knew was worthy to be trusted with the secret. He therefore delivered the body to Morgiana, and went himself to impart the sad tidings to the wife of Cassim. The poor woman was deeply afflicted, and reproached herself with her former envy and curiosity as being the cause of her husband's death; but Ali Baba having convinced her of the necessity of being very discreet, she checked her lamentations, and resolved to leave every thing to the management of Morgiana.

Morgiana having washed the body, hastened to an apothecary's and asked for some particular medicine; saying, it was for her master Cassim, who was dangerously ill. She took care to

ſpread the report of Caſſim's illneſs through the neighbourhood; and as they ſaw Ali Baba and his wife going daily to the houſe of their brother in great affliction, they were not ſurpriſed to hear ſhortly that Caſſim had died of his diſorder.

The next difficulty was to bury him without diſcovery; but Morgiana was ready to contrive a plan for that alſo. She put on her veil, and went to a diſtant part of the city very early in the morning, where ſhe found a poor cobler juſt opening the ſtall. She put a piece of gold in his hand; and told him he ſhould have another, if he would ſuffer himſelf to be blindfolded and go with her, carrying his tools with him. Muſtapha the cobler heſitated at firſt; but the gold tempted him and he conſented: when Morgiana carefully covering his eyes, ſo that he could not ſee a ſtep of the way, led him to Caſſim's houſe; and taking him to the room where the body was lying removed the bandage from his eyes and bade him ſew the mangled limbs together.

Muſtapha obeyed her order; and having received two pieces of gold, was

ed blindfold the ſame way back to his own ſtall.

Morgiana then covering the body with a winding ſheet, ſent for the undertaker to make preparations for the funeral: and Caſſim was buried with all due ſolemnity that very day.

Ali Baba now removed his few goods and all his gold coin that he had brought from the cavern, to the houſe of his deſceaſed brother, of which he took poſſeſſion: and Caſſim's widow received every kind attention both from Ali Baba and his wife.

After an interval of ſome months, the troop of robbers again viſited their retreat in the foreſt, and were completely aſtoniſhed to find the body taken away from the cave, and every thing elſe remaining in its uſual order. "We are diſcovered," ſaid the captain, "and ſhall certainly be undone "if we do not adopt ſpeedy meaſures "to prevent our ruin. Which of you, "my brave comrades, will undertake "to ſearch out the villain who is in "poſſeſſion of our ſecret?"

One of the boldeſt of our troop advanced, and offered himſelf; and was accepted on the following conditions;

namely, that if he ſucceeded in his enterpriſe, he was to be made ſecond in command of the troop; but that if he brought falſe intelligence, he was immediately to be put to death.

The bold robber readily agreed to the conditions; and having diſguiſed himſelf, he proceeded to the city. He arrived there about day-break, and found the cobler Muſtapha in his ſtall, which was always open before any ſhop in the town.

"Good morrow, friend," ſaid the robber, as he paſſed the ſtall, "you "riſe betimes: I ſhould think, old as "you are, you could ſcarcely ſee to "work by this light."

"Indeed, Sir," replied the cobler, "old as I am, I do not want for good "eye-ſight; as you muſt needs be-"lieve, when I tell you I ſewed a "dead body together the other day, "where I had not ſo good a light as I "have now."

"A dead body!" exclaimed the robber, "you mean, I ſuppoſe, that you "ſewed up the winding-ſheet for a "dead body."

"I mean no ſuch thing," replied

Muſtapha; "I tell you I ſewed the four quarters of a man together."

This was enough to convince the robber he had luckily met with the very man who could give him the information he was in ſearch of. However he did not wiſh to appear eager to learn the particulars, leſt he ſhould alarm the poor cobler. He therefore began to laugh: "Ha! ha!" ſaid he, "I find, good Mr Cobler, that you perceive I am a ſtranger here, and you wiſh to make me believe that the people of your city do impoſſible things."

"I tell you," ſaid Muſtapha, in a loud and angry tone, "I ſewed a dead body together with my own hands."

"Then I ſuppoſe you can tell me alſo where you performed this wonderful buſineſs?"

Upon this, Muſtapha related every particular of his being led blindfold to the houſe, &c.

"Well, my friend," ſaid the robber, "'tis a fine ſtory, I confeſs, but not very eaſy to believe: however, if you will convince me by ſhewing me the houſe you talk of, I will give

" you four pieces of gold to make
" amends for my unbelief."

" I think," said the cobler, after
considering a while, " that if you were
" to blindfold me, I should remember
" every turning we made; but with
" my eyes open I am sure I should
" never find it."

Accordingly the robber covered Mus-
tapha's eyes with a handkerchief, who
led him through most of the principal
streets, and stopping by Cassim's door
said, " Here it is. I went no further
" than this house."

The robber immediately marked the
door with a piece of chalk; and giving
Mustapha his four pieces of gold, dis-
missed him.

Shortly after the thief and Mustapha
had quitted the door, Morgiana coming
home from market, perceived the little
mark of white chalk on the door; and
suspecting something was wrong, di-
rectly marked four doors on one side
and five on the other of her master's in
exactly the same manner, without say-
ing a word to any one.

The robber meantime rejoined his
troop, and boasted greatly of his suc-
cess. His captain and comrades praise

s diligence; and being well armed,
ey proceeded to the town in different
fguiſes, and in ſeperate parties of
ree and four together. It was agreed
nong them, that they were to meet
the market-place at the duſk of
ening; and that the captain, and
e robber who had diſcovered the
ouſe, were to go there firſt, to find
t to whom it belonged. Accordingly
ing arrived in the ſtreet, and having
lantern with them, they began to
xamine the doors, and found, to their
nfuſion and aſtoniſhment, that ten
oors were marked exactly alike. The
bber who was the captain's guide
uld not ſay a word in explanation
this myſtery; and when the diſap-
inted troop got back to the foreſt,
s enraged companions ordered him
be put to death.
Another now offered himſelf upon
e ſame conditions as the former; and
ving bribed Muſtapha, and diſcover-
the houſe, he made a mark with
rk red chalk upon the door, in a
rt that was not in the leaſt conſpicu-
s; and carefully examined the ſur-
unding doors, to be certain that no
ch mark was upon any one of them.

But nothing could escape the prying eyes of Morgiana: scarcely had the robber departed, when she discovered the red mark: and getting some red chalk, she marked seven doors on each side, precisely in the same place and in the same manner.

The robber, valuing himself highly upon the precautions he had taken, triumphantly conducted his captain to the spot: but great indeed was his confusion and dismay, when he found it impossible to say, which among fifteen houses marked exactly alike, was the right one. The captain, furious with his disappointment, returned again with the troop to the forest; and the second robber was also condemned to death.

The captain having thus lost two of his troop, judged that their hands were more active than their heads in such services: and he resolved to employ no other of them, but go himself upon the business.

Accordingly he repaired to the city, and addressed himself to the cobler Mustapha; who for six pieces of gold readily performed the same services for him he had done for the two other

strangers; and the captain, much wiser than his men, did not amuse himself with setting a mark upon the door, but attentively considered the house, counted the number of its windows, and passed by it very often to be certain that he should know it again.

He then returned to the forest, and ordered his troop to go into the town, and purchase nineteen mules and thirty-eight large jars, one full of oil, and the rest empty.

In two or three days the jars were bought, and all things in readiness; and the captain having put a man into each jar, properly armed, the jars being rubbed on the outside with oil, and the covers having holes bored in them for the men to breathe through, loaded his mules, and, in the habit of an oil-merchant, entered the town in the dusk of the evening. He proceeded to the street where Ali Baba dwelt, and found him sitting in the porch of his house.

"Sir," said he to Ali Baba, "I have brought this oil a great way to sell, and am too late for this day's market. As I am quite a stranger in this town, will you do me the favour to let me put my mules into your court-yard,

"and direct me where I may lod
"to night?"

Ali Baba, who was a good-natur
man, welcomed the pretended oil-m
chant very kindly, and offered him
bed in his own house, and havi
ordered the mules to be unloaded
the yard, and properly fed, he invit
his guest in to supper. The capta
having seen the jars placed ready in
yard, followed Ali Baba into the hou
and after supper was shewn to
chamber where he was to sleep.

It happened that Morgiana was
liged to sit up later that night than usu
to get ready her master's bathing li
for the following morning; and wh
she was busy about the fire, her la
went out, and there was no more
in the house.

After considering what she could p
sibly do for a light, she recollected
thirty eight oil-jars in the yard, and
termined to take a little oil out of
of them for her lamp. She took
oil pot in her hand, and approachi
the first jar, the robber within
"Is it time, captain?" Any o
slave, perhaps on hearing a man
an oil-jar, would have screamed o

lod t the prudent Morgiana instantly re-
ilected herself, and replied softly,
tur No, not yet; lie still till I call you."
-m he passed on to every jar, receiving
him e same question, and making the
avi me answer, till she came to the last
ed hich was really filled with oil.
nvit Morgiana was now convinced that
pta is was a plot of the robbers to murder
in er master Ali Baba; so she ran back
nou the kitchen, and brought out a large
o ettle, which she filled with oil, and
t it on a great wood fire; and as soon
as it boiled, she went and poured into
uſu e jars sufficient of the boiling-oil to
lin ill every man within them.
wh Having done this, she put out her
lar e and her lamp, and crept softly to
ore er chamber.

The captain of the robbers, hearing
d very thing quiet in the house, and
ed erceiving no light any where, arose
nd nd went down into the yard to assem-
of e his men. Coming to the first jar,
ck e felt the stream of the boiled oil; he
ach n hastily to the rest, and found every
n e of his troop put to death in the
ot me manner. Full of rage and despair
an having failed in his design, he forced
d o e lock of a door that led to the

garden, and made his escape over t
walls.

On the following morning, Morgia
related to her master Ali Baba his wo
derful deliverence from the pretend
oil-merchant and his gang of robbe

Ali Baba at first could scarcely cre
her tale; but when he saw the robbe
dead in the jars, he could not sufficie
ly praise her courage and sagacity; a
without letting any one else into t
secret, he and Morgiana, the next nig
buried the thirty seven thieves in a de
trench at the bottom of the garde
The jars and the mules, as he had
use for them, were sent from time
time to the different markets and sol

While Ali Baba took these measu
to prevent his and Cassim's adve
tures in the forest from being know
the captain returned to his cave, a
for some time abandoned himself
grief and despair. At length, howe
he determined to adopt a new sche
for the destruction of Ali Baba. He
moved by degrees all the valuable m
chandise from the cave to the city,
took a shop exactly opposite to
Baba's house.

He furnished this shop with ev

ing that was rare and coſtly, and ent by the name of the merchant ogia Haſſan. Many perſons made acaintance with the ſtranger: and nong others Ali Baba's ſon went ery day to his ſhop. The pretended ogia Haſſan ſoon appeared to be very nd of Ali Baba's ſon, offered him any preſents, and often detained him dinner, on which occaſions he treated im in the handſomeſt manner.

Ali Baba's ſon thought it was neceſry to make ſome return to theſe civiles, and preſſed his father to invite ogia Haſſan to ſupper. Ali Baba ade no objection, and the invitation as accordingly given.

The artful Cogia Haſſan would not o haſtily accept this invitation, but retended that he was not fond of going to company, and that he had buſeſs which demanded his preſence at ome. Theſe excuſes only made Ali aba's ſon the more eager to take him his father's houſe; and after reated ſolicitations, the merchant conted to ſup at Ali Baba's the next ening.

A moſt excellent ſupper was provid which Morgiana cooked in the beſt

manner, and, as was her uſual cuſto
ſhe carried in the firſt diſh her
The moment ſhe looked at Cogia H
ſan, ſhe knew him to be the prete
ed oil merchant. The prudent M
giana did not ſay a word to any one
this diſcovery, but ſent the other ſla
into the kitchen, and waited at t
herſelf; and while Cogia Haſſan
drinking, ſhe perceived he had a d
ger hid under his coat. When ſup
was ended, and the deſert and w
on the table, Morgiana went away
dreſſed herſelf in he habit of a danc
girl: ſhe next called Abdella, a fello
ſlave, to play on his tabor while
danced.

As ſoon as ſhe appeared at the parl
door, her maſter, who was very fo
of ſeeing her dance, ordered her
come in to entertain his gueſt w
ſome of her beſt dancing, Cogia H
ſan was not very well ſatisfied w
this entertainment, yet was compell
for fear of diſcovering himſelf, to ſe
pleaſed with the dancing. while in
he wiſhed Morgiana a great way
and was quite alarmed leſt he ſho
loſe his opportunity of murdering
Baba and his ſon.

Morgiana danced ſeveral dances with the utmoſt
ce and agility; and then drawing a poinard from
girdle, ſhe performed many ſurpriſing things with
ſometimes preſenting the point to one, and ſometimes
another, and then ſeemed to ſtrike it into her own
ſom. Suddenly ſhe paufed, and holding the poinard
the right hand, preſented her left to her maſter, as
begging ſome money; upon which, Ali Baba and
ſon each gave her a ſmall piece of money. She
n turned to the pretended Cogia Haſſan, and while
was putting his hand into his purſe, ſhe plunged the
nard into his heart.

"Wretch!" cried Ali Baba, "thou haſt ruined me
and my family."

"No, Sir" replied Morgiana, "I have preſerved,
and not ruined, you and your ſon. Look well at
this traitor, and you will find him to be the pretend-
ed oil-merchant who came once before to rob and
murder you."

Ali Baba having pulled off the turban and the cloak
ich the falſe Cogia Haſſan wore, diſcovered that he
not only the pretended oil-merchant, but the cap-
of the forty robbers who had ſlain his brother
im, nor could he doubt that his perfidious aim had
n to deſtroy him, and probably his ſon, with the
cealed dagger.

Ali Baba, who felt the new obligation he owed to
rgiana for thus ſaving his life a ſecond time, embra-
her, and ſaid, "My dear Morgiana, I give you
our liberty; but my gratitude muſt not ſtop here,
will alſo marry you to my ſon, who can eſteem
d admire you no leſs than does his father." Then
ing to his ſon, he added, "You, my ſon, will not
ſuſe the wife I offer; for, in marrying Morgiana,
ou take to wife the preſerver and benefactor of
ourſelf and your family."

The son far from shewing any dislike, readi
joyfully accepted his proposed bride, having long
tained an affection for the good slave Morgiana.

Having rejoiced in their deliverance, they
the captain that night with great privacy, in the
along with his troop of robbers: and a few days
wards, Ali Baba celebrated the marriage of h
and Morgiana with a sumptuous entertainment.
Every one who knew Morgiana said, she was wor
her good fortune, and highly commended her m
generosity towards her.

During a twelvemonth, Ali Baba forebore
hear the forest, but at length his curiosity incite
to make another journey. When he came to the
he saw no footsteps of either men or horses: and h
said, *Open Sesame*, he went in, and judged b
state of things deposited in the cavern, that no o
been there since the pretended Cogia Hassan
removed the merchandise to his shop in the city.
Baba took as much gold home as his horse
carry; and afterwards he carried his son to the
and taught him the secret. This secret they h
down to their posterity: and using their good fo
with moderation, they lived in honor and ple
and served with dignity, some of the highest
of the city.

FINIS.